NOTE XXVIII.

ON THREE RARE SOUTH-AMERICAN MAMMALS.

BY

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(Plate 3).

Some weeks ago I procured a small collection of Mammals and Birds collected by Mr. J. H. (I have not been happy enough to investigate the name) in the years 1880 and 1881. The specimens labeled 1880 are from Nauta; those with the label 1881 are from Samiria. Nauta is a locality in North-Eastern-Peru on the Marañon-River, vis-à-vis the mouth of the Ucayali-River. Samiria is a name quite new to me and not on the maps, but I think that this locality is to be found in the neighborhood of Nauta and is perhaps the same as Chambira on the maps: and if this supposition is right then it is a locality in Ecuador, on the River of the same name, a branch of the Marañon. That it is not without interest to know the exact situation of the latter locality will be clear if I say that just from Samiria (Chambira?) are two Mammals in the above quoted collection, which belong to two of the most beautiful and at the same time of the rarest among the South-American species of Mammals.

Dactylomys typus Is. Geoffroy.

The type of this rare and splendid species is in the Paris-Museum: its exact locality is unknown. The second recorded specimen, a male, from Natterer's voyage, is in the Vienna-Museum and has been shot on the banks of the Rio-Negro. Deville records that »les différents sujets rapportés par l'expédition (de Castelnau et Deville) viennent de la Mission de Sarayacu, rivière de l'Ucayale, Pampa del Sacramento." Two specimens are in the British-Museum, from the Rio-Napo (P. Z. S. L. 1876, p. 743). Our specimen — an adult male — has been collected in North-Peru or Ecuador by Mr. J. H., 7 August 1881. The certain patria of this species thus is North-West-Brazil, Ecuador and Northern-Peru.

Our specimen presents the following measurements:

	m.m.
Length of body from tip of nose to root of tail	328
» » tail	406
» » hairy basal portion of tail	90
» » hind foot	59
» » fore foot	32
» » skull	78
» » nasal bones	26
Width of skull	37
Length of upper molar series	20
» » lower » »	21
Distance between incisor and first molar (upper jaw)	17
» » » » » » (lower jaw)	9

As there is in the two British-Museum specimens no skull and as Wagner is silent on this point in the description of Natterer's specimen, I think that up to this time the only known skulls of this species are those in the Paris-Museum and the skull in the Leyden Museum.

There is a very badly drawn figure of the type-specimen in the »Magasin de Zoologie, 1840, pl. 20." The skull has been tolerably well figured in the »Nouvelles Annales du

Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, 1832, pl. 19, figs 5 et 6"; the molar-series several times has been figured; the only good figures however of these parts are to be found in the »Revue et Magasin de Zoologie, 1852, pl. 16, figs. 1 and 1a (Deville)."

As to the bony parts M. Deville correctly observed that the fore feet have five digits as well as the hind feet and that the fifth digit of the fore feet is very small so that M. Is. Geoffroy has overlooked it in describing the feet after the very badly preserved type-specimen.

Echimys brevicauda Günther.

A male-specimen, labeled Samiria, 19 December 1881 and collected by Mr. J. H., agrees exactly with Waterhouse's description of an *Echimys*-specimen (Mammalia, T. II, p. 498, foot-note). Dr. Günther (P. Z. S. L. 1876, p. 750) assures that Waterhouse's specimen is a tailless individuum of *E. brevicauda* Günther, and I thus give to my specimen the latter name. The only difference in Günther's figures of the skull and the skull of my specimen is that in the latter the nasal bones are much more produced and longer. The Samiria-specimen moreover is larger in all its dimensions.

Another specimen, a young (only three molars present) female from the same collection is from Nauta, 12 September 1880. I think it to be a young of this species, with which it agrees in form and distribution of colors (f. i. hairs of underparts are pure white to the root and separated by a well-marked line from the dark color of the sides of the body): there are however no harsh hairs.

This species thus is to be found in Southern-Ecuador?, Peru and Bolivia.

Didelphys lanigera Desmarest.

This species is nearly as rare in collections as *Dactylomys typus* Is. Geoffroy.

The type of Azara's *Micouré laineux* is from Paraguay, Caazapa; another specimen — a male — from the neighborhood of Sainte Marie de la Foi has been presented to d'Azara. This species also was represented in Rengger's collections from Paraguay, Villa Rica. Mr. Oldfield Thomas informs me that there are several specimens in the British-Museum, from Panama (Chefo), Columbia (Medellin), Ecuador and Peruvian Amazons (Chamicuros). Natterer's specimen in the Vienna-Museum is from Caiçara, Southern-Brazil; it was the first specimen of this species in any European-Museum. Another specimen — a male — from Natterer's voyage — if at least *Didelphys ochropus* Natterer is a mere variety of *D. lanigera*, as I suppose — is from Barra do Rio-Negro. Mr. Huet writes me that there is a single specimen — a female — in the Paris-Museum, from J. Verreaux in 1854 and *indiqué comme venant d'Australie!* In the Leyden Museum is a stuffed specimen — a male — from Demerara, British Guiana (Frank, 1877). Our other specimen — a female — is from Ecuador or Northern Peru, 4 August 1881, collected by Mr. J. H.

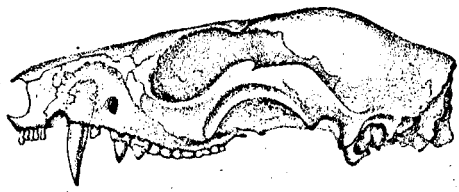
The above given localities show that this species has a very wide area of geographical distribution, viz.: from Panama to Paraguay and from Peru to British Guiana.

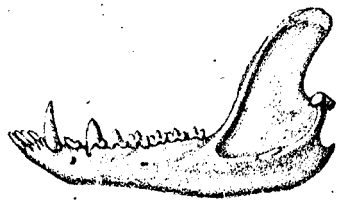
The species has been figured under the name of *Didelphys ornata* Tschudi — I believe with Mr. Oldfield Thomas that the specimen described by Tschudi in his Fauna Peruana under this new name belongs to our species — but this figure cannot be called very correct, especially the colors do not agree with the description. *Didelphys derbiana* Waterhouse belongs perhaps too to our species, but I never saw the figure in the Naturalist's Library (Marsupialia) Vol. XI, Pl. 2 (Waterhouse). Alston's figure of *Didelphys derbiana* (Biologia centrali-americana, pl. XXII) is taken from an original sketch from the life by Mr. Smit, and lets no doubt that the female and young specimens, living in May 1877 in the Zoological Society's Gardens, belonged to the true *Didelphys lanigera*. Both our specimens show

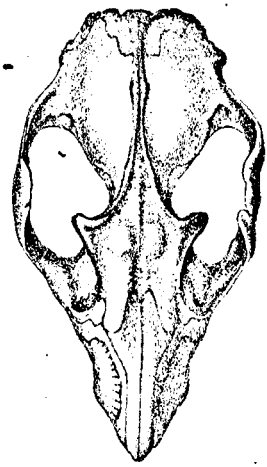
the dark spots on the naked part of the tail, as figured in Alston's above mentioned book; in Tschudi's figure of his *D. ornata* these spots are wanting. The descriptions given by Tschudi and Wagner are sufficiently correct. The skull nowhere has been figured or described. The figures of the skull of our Samiria-specimen will discharge me of a description. I now wish to compare it with skulls of other *Didelphys*-species in our collection. All the teeth are present and it shows all characteristics of a fullgrown skull. There is no sagittal crest like in skulls of adult specimens of the other *Didelphys*-species of the same or of larger size. The postorbital process of frontal bone is much more developed than in any other *Didelphys*-species at my disposal, and in no species the skull is so short in proportion to its broadness: the skulls of *Didelphys philander* figured by Temminck in his »Mammalogie, T. I, pl. 6" are also very short, they have been removed from young specimens as the dentition indicates. The first premolar in upper and lower jaw is very small. The second upper premolar is very stout and much stronger than the third upper premolar, the latter reaching about three quarter of the length of the second upper premolar, meanwhile in the other *Didelphys*-skulls the second and third upper premolars are about of the same size or sometimes the third is higher than the second. The second lower premolar attains about three quarter of the size of the third lower molar and thus approaches more what I find in *D. opossum*, *D. cancrivora* and *D. azarae*, although in these species in a lower degree, meanwhile in the other species the second and third lower premolar are nearly of the same size; in *D. tristriata* the third lower premolar is somewhat higher than the second.

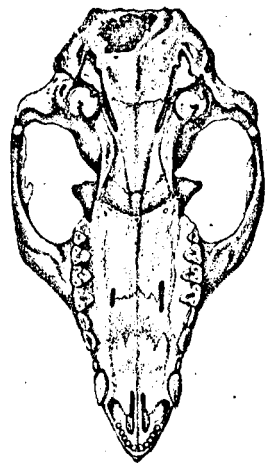
I think that a closer examination of larger series of *Didelphys*-skulls than I have at my disposal, will bring us to divide the *Opossum*-family in some genera and to separate *D. lanigera* in a peculiar genus, perhaps together with *D. philander:* for the skull and dentition of *D. la-*

nigera has in several parts a striking resemblance with the skull and dentition of *D. philander* figured under the name of *Philander cayopollin* in Burmeister's »Erläuterungen zur Fauna Brasiliens, 1856, Pl. XI, figs. 5, 5^{a} and 5^{b}"; if *Philander dichura* Burmeister is a good species (I cannot judge about this because I never saw a specimen like it) then it may enter too in the same division.









A. J. J. Wendel ad nat. del. et lith. P.W.M.Trap impr.

Didelphys lanigera *Desmarest.*